

Q. # 1129

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"Extract from Entry From Marquis KIDO's Diary, 2 Aug 41"

August 2nd, 1941 - (Extract)

I went to my office at 10 a.m. Prince KONOE visited me at 11 a.m. He said he was annoyed to find that there was an observable tendency for the tough elements in the Navy to gather strength, a tendency which would be a great hindrance in the way of the maintenance of harmony between the Supreme Command and the Government. If the U.S.A. adopted decisive measures such as to cut us off from supplies of oil, we would run out of oil. Under these circumstances, we would be threatened by an acute national crisis, if we made any mistake in our diplomatic moves. Hence an understanding between the War and Navy Ministers concerning our fundamental national policy should be secured as soon as possible, and if a complete agreement is not reached, there would be nothing for the Government to do but to resign en bloc.

The Army and the Navy would then assume charge of the administration of the country. I talked with the Chief Secretary on the same matter.